MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 JANUARY 1983

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Negotiations

At a meeting in Jerusalem between the Israeli negotiating team and U.S. envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper, it was agreed that the expected Israeli-Lebanese agreement will replace all previous agreements, including the 1945 armistice agreement, thus meeting Israel's desire that Israeli-Lebanese relations henceforth rest on a new legal basis, Jerusalem radio reported. However, the dispute between Israel and the United States over security arrangements in Lebanon remains unresolved, Jerusalem television reported, and the Israelis rejected Habib's proposal that Americans man the early warning stations instead of Israelis. Asserting that the "center of gravity" of the talks on Lebanon has shifted from Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona to Jerusalem, IDF Radio noted that the U.S. and Israeli representatives will hold a further meeting on 19 January.

Lebanon, Israel, and the United States will decide at their 20 January meeting in Qiryat Shemona to establish three joint subcommittees on security arrangements, the withdrawal of foreign forces, and normalization, Jerusalem television reported. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Beirut cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the U.S. negotiators are suggesting new proposals to undo some of the "knots" obstructing progress in the negotiations.

Syria

U.S. and Israeli talk about Syria's new sophisticated weapons is aimed at justifying "a large-scale aggression" against Syria and directly threatening it if Syria continues to resist the strategic U.S.-Israeli expansion in the Arab region, TISHRIN declared in a commentary reviewed by Damascus radio. Without mentioning Syria's acquisition of SAM-5's, TISHRIN said the United States and Israel "harp on" Syria's possession of new weapons, interpreting this as a strategic development facing the United States rather than a practical step to improve Syria's defensive capabilities.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Diplomatic Contacts -- Iraqi President Saddam Husayn arrived in Riyadh and discussed the Iraq-Iran war, the current Arab situation, and bilateral relations with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, SPA reported. The Iraqi president returned to Baghdad after a brief visit to the Kingdom, according to Baghdad radio. In another development Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received a lengthy verbal message from Jordan's King Husayn on the results of the Jordanian monarch's visit to Washington and on his talks with President Reagan, MENA reported.

Arab-UK Relations -- Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi said that the seven-member Arab committee does not intend to visit London unless there is a change in the "circumstances and implications" that led to the visit's postponement, KUNA reported citing a statement by the minister during a news conference in Kuwait.

PLO Affairs -- The PLO Executive Committee discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian situation -- particularly the situation in Lebanon -- during its concluding session in Damascus, San'a' Voice of Palestine radio reported. It added that a committee was formed under PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum to prepare for the 14 February PNC session. In another development the Damascus paper AL-BA'TH "castigated" PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's statements to the Cairo magazine AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in which he allegedly said the PLO is not asking Egypt to foresake the Camp David accords, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Meanwhile, a "ranking" Jordanian official in Amman announced that Jordan's King Husayn and 'Arafat have not yet agreed on the names of Palestinian personalities who may participate in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the "anticipated" peace negotiations, according to the radio.

Libya

Reportage on U.S. Maneuvers -- The U.S. 6th Fleet's current "provocative terrorist maneuvers" off the Libyan coast confirm the "hostile course" of the U.S. Administration and illustrate its penchant for "intimidation, threats, and blackmail" against those who reject U.S. hegemony, Tripoli radio stated.

Al-Qadhdhafi in Bulgaria -- In a speech to Bulgarian leaders at a Sofia dinner, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said the Libyan-Bulgarian talks will enhance and expand bilateral cooperation, JANA reported. The two sides wish to adopt joint measures to confront imperialism and Zionism, the Libyan leader added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SOLDIERS MUTINY IN KHOWST, KILL ADVISERS

OW181918 Hong Kong AFP in English 1853 GMT 18 Jan 83

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Text] Islambabad, Jan. 18 (AFP) -- Several hundred Afghan soldiers posted in Khowst, in the eastern province of Paktia, deserted after killing officers and Soviet advisers who tried to put down their mutiny, a Western diplomatic source said here today.

An Afghan resistance chief from the same province, contacted by telephone from here, said Soviet warplanes had bombed resistance positions Sunday and today in the mountains surrounding Khowst, but he denied there had been a rebellion at the Khowst Garrison.

According to diplomatic sources here, several dozen Soviet helicopters took off from Kabul and Bagram air base north of Kabul, headed for Khowst apparently with orders to stop deserters from joining rebel forces in the mountains surrounding the vast Khowst plain.

If confirmed, the mutiny would be one of the most serious to affect Afghan Government troops since the Soviet invasion three years ago.

On January 1, Afghan deserters arriving in Miran Shah, a town near the Pakistan border some 50 kms (30 miles) from Khowst, said about 100 soldiers stationed at Nader Shah Kowt, near Khowst, had mutinied, killing 30 of their officers and burning down the garrison's arms depot. Khowst Garrison houses the 25th Afghan Infantry Division, estimated at 1,000 men. About 100 Soviet advisers, both civilian and military, along with their families are also stationed there.

Moslem rebel forces in recent months have subjected the dozens of advance posts protecting Khowst to constant harassment. The garrison is now entirely supplied by air since guerrillas cut off the highway leading to the province capital of Gardez, a source close to the resistance said.

Rebel sources say that Khowst Garrison commander was recently recalled to Kabul and replaced by an officer from the Parsham faction of the Afghan communist party, the faction to which President Babrak Karmal belongs.

Meanwhile, Western diplomatic sources reported that Kabul was low in fuel following a series of successful rebel attacks against power installations and convoys from the Soviet Union. Many areas of the city were said to be without electricity since rebels struck major pylons and transformers last month. Fuel for transportation and heating has been rationed, diplomatic sources said, and the two main pipelines supplying Afghanistan from the Soviet Union have not functioned since last December following repeated rebel sabotage. They said the fleet of 280 Czechoslovak-built gas trucks which had been supplying Kabul with most of its fuel needs was immobilized because drivers refused to take the wheel, fearing rebel ambushes. More than 50 of the trucks were said to be derelict and that eight had been destroyed or captured by guerrillas.

The diplomats also confirmed earlier reports that the Soviet advisers kidnapped in Mazar-e Sharif were civilian employees in the local baking factory. They also confirmed that one Soviet had been killed as he attempted to escape.

According to one source, the two women seized with the Soviets were Afghan prostitutes.

Two separate resistance groups have claimed responsibility for the kidnap.

OFFICIAL EXPLAINS KABUL'S FUEL SHORTAGE

LD180654 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Kabul, Jan 17, BAKHTAR -- General president of the Organization for Sugar and Petroleum Products has given an interview to a correspondent of daily HAQIQATE ENQELAB-E SAWR in connection with the existing temporary shortage of petroleum products in Kabul.

The main reason for the shortage of petroleum are the subversive acts of the counter-revolutionaries. The transportation problem has also increased due to recent heavy snow falls at Salang highway where only one-way traffic is possible at present. The sudden increase in the demand for petroleum has also intensified this problem. He said that over 73 million litres of diesel was planned to be distributed during the past nine months whereas over 84 million litre diesel was distributed which was 15 percent more than planned. So our countrymen are confronted with the shortage of petroleum products.

He also noted that due to the shortage of electric power, the thermal power of Kabul City has consumed an unusual amount of 25 million litres of diesel which was not planned. This was the third factor which contributed to the shortage.

Yet, the supply of diesel to the market shows an increase of 118 percent as compared to the last year. This organization has taken all the necessary measures to expedite [words indistinct] transport of oil to the oil depots in order to meet the needs of the people, he concluded.

Fuel 'Ready' for Distribution

LD181802 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] As a result of an urgent DRA Council of Ministers' decision and necessary measures taken by the Kabul City party committee, sufficient fuel to meet the needs of Kabul's, citizens today arrived in Kabul and is ready for distribution to the citizens.

A source of the Department of Oil Products and Sugar told BAKHTAR that necessary measures have been taken to facilitate the distribution of fuel to citizens.

According to another report, a number of fuel hoarders have been arrested in Kabul City by the security forces and personnel of the Department of Oil Products and Sugar. A Department of Oil Products and Sugar source told a BAKHTAR correspondent that a large quantity of fuel has been seized from these hoarders, who were creating [word indistinct] in the distribution of fuel to Kabul citizens. This seized fuel was distributed to Kabul citizens.

DEFECTOR DESCRIBES MILITARY, MEDICAL SITUATION

BK180343 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Major General Niaek Mohammad Azizi, head of the Karmal regime military academy, Kabul, who had recently defected, has said the strength of the Karmal regime troops has now been reduced to less than 15,000 as compared to 80,000 in the past.

Talking to newsmen in Peshawar today, he said a large number of Karmal regime soldiers have been killed and injured during the fighting or have joined the mujahidin. As many as 40,000 soldiers killed in the fighting had been identified from the official graveyards. The number of those whose bodies had been taken away by their relatives is not known. He said the troops belonging to Parcham and Khalq groups when wounded during fighting were flown to Kabul, but those not belonging to these groups were admitted to hospitals in the provinces.

He spoke of the shortages of medicines and hospital beds because of the increasing number of injured troops. A 400-bed hospital in Kabul had been expanded to 2,000. In addition to three military hospitals in Kabul, 100-bed hospitals had been provided for each military division in Afghanistan. A 500-bed hospital was exclusively meant for the Soviets in the Afghan capital.

Replying to a question, the general said of the 350 doctors in the Karmal regime army, 150 had fled the country while 25 had been killed. The general said the basement of a hospital in Kabul was being used as a killing cell and it was there that a former head of the Soviet-backed regime, Nur Mohammad Taraki, and several other prominent Afghan leaders had been executed.

Replying to a question, the defecting general said the Karmal regime intelligence, KHAD, had confiscated houses of people and converted them into offices-cum-jails. In Kabul alone, he said, the KHAD had established its offices in all the 25 wards of the city.

2/3 of Army Doctors Flee

BK181157 Hong Kong AFP in English 1136 GMT 18 Jan 83

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan. 18 (AFP) -- Two-thirds of the doctors in the Afghan Army have fled the country since the communist regime came to power, the former head of the Kabul military medical school said here today.

The doctor, General Naik Mohammad Azizi, 55, added that the Afghan Army today numbered fewer than 15,000 troops and about 100 doctors, many of whom had graduated after only four, instead of seven, years of study.

He said the Afghan Army had lost 30,000 men, or one-third of its 1978 strength, and that there were 5,000 soldiers' graves in Kabul's military cemetery.

General Azizi said 33 Afghan Army doctors had been killed while fighting rebels since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan three years ago. Of 20 young doctors trained in the Soviet Union in the past three years, eight had fled to Pakistan, two were living in West Germany and three had been killed.

General Azizi was prematurely retired "because of my Islamic opinions" in November, 1978 when he opened a private clinic in central Kabul. He said he believes that he was allowed to continue practising because he was the only specialist in dermatology remaining in the country.

He said that Afghanistan's largest military hospital is in Kabul and has 400 beds, but it is permanently treating 2,000 sick and wounded soldiers. He said overcrowding was so bad that 500 beds had been put in tents erected in the hospital courtyard.

The Afghan Army has another 500-bed hospital in Kabul, but it is not equipped for surgical operations. It also has five 100-bed hospitals in the field.

General Azizi said that only Soviet troops were admitted to the 500-bed "number one military hospital" in Kabul, which has an all-Soviet staff "including assistant cooks and floor-sweepers."

For security reasons no Afghans, even leading members of the Afghan communist party, are allowed to enter this hospital, he said.

He said that East German, Hungarian, Indian and Soviet doctors are working in Afghan civilian and military hospitals where there was a serious shortage of all kinds of drugs.

Soviet authorities, in order to obtain blood for transfusions, offered new Afghan Army recruits additional leave passes or promised early demobilisation if they donated their blood.

In schools, communist teachers tried to persuade their pupils to sell their blood by selling it at 1,000 Afghanis (20 dollars) per litre (about 1.75 pints).

General Azizi, who on arriving here joined the fundamentalist Hezbe Eslami Party, said that "at night Kabul belongs to the resistance."

Army tanks patrolling the main boulevard in central Kabul which run beside his clinic were frequently attacked by rockets at night, and sometimes even during the day, he said.

AKALI-CENTER TALKS END; REACTIONS CITED

BK181629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The three-member ministerial team from the center and the Akali Dal leaders had another round of discussions in Chandigarh today. Home Minister P.C. Sethi told newsmen after the 3-hour talks that they covered much ground but some issues are still to be clinched. The Akali leaders went back to Amritsar to report to their chief Sant Harchand Singh Logowal. Sethi said the government side would give further consideration to the issues that remain unsolved.

The ministerial team comprised Defense Minister Venkataraman and Petroleum and Energy Minister Shiv Shankar besides the home minister. They were assisted by Home Secretary T.N. Chaturveadi.

The Akali side was represented by Prakash Singh Badal, Gurcharan Singh Tohra, Jagdev Singh Talwandi, Balwant Singh, Sukhjinder Singh, Surjit Singh Barnala, and Ravi Inder Singh.

Asked whether there is any possibility of another round of talks, Venkataraman replied: We are hopeful. The government side is ready. It would be seen that further talks are necessary.

Sethi, however, added that the talks were a continuing process. Asked whether any formula has been offered at the talks, Sethi and Shiv Shankar said there is no such question. Many suggestions and perceptions from both sides are discussed. Sethi declined to say whether the outstanding issues related to political, territorial, or religious matters. He, however, said that they are of a nature which concerns some other states and parties as well. They are being consulted.

Regarding the Akali deadline of 26th January for intensifying their agitation, Sethi said the government is doing its best to solve the issue and he was hopeful that it would be solved soon.

When newsmen asked Badal whether the differences have been narrowed down, he replied only the results will satisfy us.

BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON 4-DAY VISIT

BK160646 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] The Belgian minister for external affairs, Leo Tindemans, arrived in New Delhi last night on a 4-day visit. He was received at the airport by K.S. Bajpai, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, Tindemans said the purpose of his visit is to improve bilateral relations. During his stay in New Delhi, the Belgian minister will call on the vice president and the prime minister. He will also have talks with the external affairs minister.

Tindemans Addresses Newsmen

BK181724 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] India and Belgium are exploring the possibilities of concluding a treaty on transfer of sophisticated technology. This was stated by the visiting Belgian Minister for External Relations Leo Tindemans while addressing newsmen in New Delhi today. He said his country is in favor of increasing cooperation in the nuclear field. He said the subject was not discussed during his talks with Indian leaders but it cannot be excluded.

He also said that both India and Belgium have agreed to correct the trade imbalances by diversifying cooperation in various fields. Tindemans said that during his discussions with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi several bilateral and international issues came up.

Stating that Belgium attaches great importance to the seventh nonaligned summit. Tindemans said that the Nonaligned Movement can play an effective role in reducing tensions and contribute toward world peace. Tindemans described his talks with Finance Minister Prabab Mukherjee as very constructive. He extended an invitation to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to visit Belgium.

INDIAN-IRAQI COMMITTEE SIGNS JOINT MINUTES

JN150945 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] New Delhi, 15 Jan (INA) -- Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi has expressed satisfaction with the results achieved by the Iraqi-Indian committee for economic and technological cooperation, whose meetings ended here on Thursday.

The minister, who headed the Iraqi side to the committee's meetings, told the INA correspondent here today that his talks with Indian officials will contribute to promoting bilateral relations.

Taqi added that Iraq will export sulphur and chemical fertilizers to India and will increase the volume of oil it exports to India through the pipelines passing through Turkey. He noted that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments to India despite the war with Iran.

The Iraqi-Indian committee ended its eighth session here on Thursday.

For 2 days, the two sides had discussed economic, commercial, technical, and cultural relations and ways to promote them.

The two sides signed joint minutes. Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi signed the minutes for Iraq while Shiv Narain Shankar, Indian minister of petroleum, energy, and coal fertilizers, signed for India.

The joint minutes mention that the two countries have formed three committees for cooperation in trade, economy, industry, culture, and technology and for following up the development of relations in these spheres.

ASSAM SITUATION 'PEACEFUL, UNDER CONTROL'

BK181656 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The Election Commission has directed the Assam Government to ensure that the enforcement of the Press Censorship Act and orders under Section 144, criminal procedure codes, do not interfere with the peaceful and legitimate election campaign. It has asked the state government to furnish a copy of the censorship act and the orders issued under it. The Election Commission has also instructed the center and the Assam Government not to use the Army directly or indirectly for election purposes.

This was stated by Chief Election Commissioner R.K. Trivedi when leaders of some opposition parties met him in New Delhi yesterday. Trivedi told them that the earlier decision taken by the commission in principle during the Tripura assembly elections will be followed in Assam also.

Meanwhile, altogether 279 nomination papers have been filed so far for various assembly and parliamentary constituencies in Assam. According to the latest official reports, of these, 254 have been filed for out of 120 assembly constituencies and 25 for all the 12 parliamentary constituencies. Official sources said that reports from some places are still awaited.

They said that, despite 35-hour bundh [strike] call by the Assam agitationists from 0500 this morning, some candidates belonging to different political parties and also independents filed their nominations to the returning officers at district and subdivisional headquarters. Tomorrow is the last day for filing of nominations.

All essential services continue to function. State Chief Secretary Ramesh Chandra told All India Radio Gauhati correspondent that, except for a few cases of kidnapping, arson, and attempted sabotage of railway track, the overall situation remained peaceful and under control. He said the filing of nominations continued unhampered despite the bundh.

The Assam Governor Prakash Mehrotra told newsmen at Calcutta Airport today that he is confident that the coming elections in the state will be free, fair, and peaceful. He said the government will deal firmly with any attempt to subvert or obstruct the democratic process.

CURFEW LIFTED IN TRIPURA DISTRICT TOWN

BK181619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The situation in the district town of Udaipur in Tripura was peaceful after curfew was lifted at 0600 today. A 12-hour curfew was imposed last evening in the town and its adjoining areas following violent incidents in which two persons were killed in armed attacks by supporters of rival political parties. Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty visited some of the affected areas in the district.

SUSPECTED EXTREMISTS KILLED BY BURMESE FORCES

BK181557 Hong Kong AFP in English 1303 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 18 (AFP) -- Eight suspected Manipuri extremists, including a girl, were killed by Burmese security forces in an exchange of fire in Burma's jungle bordering the Indian state of Manipur on January 13 and 14, according to an official source quoted by the Indian news agency UNI today.

The report said the dead might have belonged to one of the groups who had recently sneaked into Burma from India to obtain arms and receive training from local communist insurgents.

RAO ATTENDS NONALIGNED MEETING IN MANAGUA

For Delhi ISI and Managua radio reportage on the visit of External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, including his address to a meeting, see the 12 January Latin American DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

ZIA REPORTEDLY TO MEET WITH POLITICAL LEADERS

GF181730 Karachi NAWA-E' WAQT in Urdu 17 Jan 83 p 1

[From the "International" edition -- NAWA-E'WAQT correspondent]

[Text] Lahore, 16 Jan -- Informed sources say President Ziaul Haq soon will begin a round of talks with political leaders.

According to these sources, the president will meet with many political leaders including Tofail Mohammad of the Jama'at-i-Islami and Pir Pagaro, chairman of the defunct Muslim League, after the return of the former from a visit to Saudi Arabia. He is expected to discuss a new political setup and other issues. These sources say it is possible that some political figures might be included in the federal Cabinet and many political figures are being contacted in this regard.

According to the sources, members of another political party also have been contacted. These sources say the Majlis-i-Shoora will continue to work in an advisory capacity until the next elections.

ZIA RECEIVES INDIA'S NATWAR SINGH; TALKS HELD

BK181554 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Natwar Singh, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry of India, called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening and relayed the good wishes of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi.

The president told Natwar Singh to convey his good wishes also to Mrs Indira Gandhi. He said that he is awaiting a meeting with the Indian prime minister at the Delhi nonaligned summit. Natwar Singh apprised the president of the arrangements for the nonaligned summit and the issues that might come up there. The president told the Indian External Affairs Ministry secretary that the Pakistani delegation will participate in a positive and constructive manner at the summit and will make wholehearted efforts to make the summit a complete success.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq expressed satisfaction over development of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. He said the agreement on joint commission between India and Pakistan will further strengthen these relations.

Earlier in the morning, Natwar Singh met with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. They exchanged views on bilateral matters and issues relating to the nonaligned summit to be held in New Delhi in March.

Later, Natwar Singh and Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik led their delegations at the talks on the administrative and organizational matters of the summit and on several political issues. Two rounds of these talks were held, during which the major issues that might come up for discussion at the summit also were reviewed. In addition, a detailed survey of the issues relating to the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau also was made at the talks.

SPACE AGENCY COOPERATION WITH FRANCE BROACHED

BK190314 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission and France's National Space Agency have identified areas of collaboration in space technology. The chief of Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission said in Lahore yesterday at the end of a series of seminars on peaceful application of space science and technology that a draft agreement envisaging collaboration between the two countries' space agencies has been prepared. Further talks will be held in Karachi in this connection.

ENERGY OFFICIAL SAYS OIL PRODUCTION TO START SOON

GF181732 Karachi NAWA-E-WAQT in Urdu 17 Jan 83 p 2

[From the "International" edition]

[Text] Karachi, 16 Jan -- Production from the Tut oil wells 5, 14, and 15 will begin shortly. This was revealed by the chairman of the Oil and Gas Development Corporation, Mr M.H. Rizvi, at a reception in his honor.

He said that the corporation had also planned to accelerate work on the Pirkoh gas field, where wells No 3 and 4 have been completed. He praised the unflinching work of the employees of the Oil and Gas Development Corporation and said that they had been working under the most adverse circumstances. He requested them to continue working with the same drive and dedication so that gas and oil necessary for the country's progress could be used to the optimum.

VELAYATI ON PEACE CONDITIONS, SOVIET RELATIONS

AU181054 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 18 Jan 83 p 2

[Gerhard Bitzan report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Vienna "last weekend"]

[Text] Vienna -- "We hope that the Iraqi people will overthrow dictator Saddam Husayn -- but that never was a main condition for peace negotiations with Iraq. This is not our task. Moreover, we never interfere in other states' internal affairs." This was stated by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in an interview with DIE PRESSE.

At the same time, he outlined conditions for concluding a peace with Iraq: First, Iraqi soldiers would have to withdraw completely from Iranian territory -- "but we are also capable of recapturing the remaining 5 percent of our territory ourselves." Second, Baghdad would have to declare its readiness to pay reparations; the amount of these reparations could be negotiated later on. And third, an international tribunal should be set up somewhere in the world to establish the guilty side in the Gulf war. "Otherwise, any day a state could invade someone else's territory." Velayati added: "Iraq has destroyed everything; 10 Iranian cities at the border were razed and many minefields laid. And now, when Saddam Husayn finds himself in a plight, he is calling for peace."

Nevertheless Tehran is open to any mediating delegation regardless of from where it comes, the foreign minister declared. He then revealed a more or less "secret": "Now we can admit it: When Iraq attacked us with 12 fully equipped divisions in September 1980, we had not even 2 full divisions at our disposal." At that time, he said, the population attacked the invaders with molotov cocktails and grenades, coming to the aid of the surprised army. "We owe the great victory that we have now won only to our people."

Velayati, who participated in the nonaligned conference in Nicaragua's capital, Managua -- "by personally attending I manifested my particular support of this movement" -- and who came to Vienna last weekend just for a brief private stopover, in the interview expressed astonishment over the fears of the Gulf countries that the Iranian spark could spread to their territories. "Actually, it is indeed the other way around: Iraq has attacked us with the aid of the conservative Gulf states. Saudi Arabia, for example, is turning the tables." In this context, the foreign minister again confirmed that Iran would never interefere in other countries' internal affairs.

Velayati rejected charges that Tehran was moving closer to Moscow. "For the United States, Iran was the 51st state. Thus, our revolution has ousted not only the shah but also the Americans. This does not mean, however, that we are leaning on another big power," Velayati said. "We were the first to condemn the Russians because of their invasion of Afghanistan and we will continue to adopt a very hard attitude toward them on this account."

"We have never claimed to be faultless," the foreign minister then declared, alluding to domestic political encroachments. It may well be, he said, that fanatics or a not properly trained population proceeded against enemies of the revolution with every means, thus overshooting the mark, and "that some things have happened which were not in line with the truth." [sentence as published] However, the people are backing the revolution and already have proved this in seven ballots, he added.

In this context, Velayati rejected the grave accusations by the Amnesty International prisoners aid organization as "lies." Indeed, there are many groups disappointed because the Islamic Revolution does not tally with their own ideological concepts of a revolution, Velayati said, citing an Iranian proverb: "Everyone sees only his own image reflected in the water."

FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS AT NONALIGNED MEETING

For IRNA and Managua radio coverage of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's activities at the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, including his speech at a meeting, see the 12 January Latin American DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1, 187

LD181744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,187 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots, Islam's selfless combatants -- these self-sacrificing, trench-manning combatants of our Islamic homeland, Iran -- while enjoying high morale and firm resolution, are continuing their defensive battle against the Saddamist aggressive mercenaries. In the course of the past 24 hours, they have been engaged in battle on all border fronts, and by opening heavy artillery and mortar fire on the enemy's artillery positions, fortifications, and servicemen, have stopped their fire and inflicted losses and casualties.

According to reports, the enemy's observed losses included the destruction of one heavy mortar on one of Bakhtaran's western fronts. Exchange of fire on the southern fronts was heaviest in the (Az-Zubaydat) region. In the Sharhani region, elements of Saddamist mercenaries attempted to infiltrate the defensive positions of our combatants. However, the victorious forces of Islam violently crushed their movement and the Iraqi forces were forced to flee after suffering losses and casualties.

During the past 24 hours, exchanges of fire continued on the fronts safeguarded by the Gendarmerie combatants in the Qasr-e Shirin, 'Eyn Khosh, and Khorramshahr's Pol-e Now border regions where Islam's forces opened fire on the Iraqi forces, repulsing their moves and operations and inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries.

Losses inflicted yesterday by the criminal Saddamists on certain parts of Abadan included the destruction of four houses.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

OFFICIALS MEET WITH TURKISH ECONOMIC DELEGATION

Oil Minister

GF171020 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Turkey's minister of energy and natural resources arrived in Iran last night accompanied by a Turkish economic delegation. He later met with the Iranian oil minister and they discussed issues of mutual interests.

In an interview, Oil Minister Gharazi said: This is the second meeting with our Turkish brothers. Last year, we signed contracts on selling oil and exchanging goods. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been successful in increasing its economic ties with Turkey to a high degree. Trade has reached $800 million which is 40 times the level of the previous regime. These trade relations have continued and the respected Turkish minister is here to hold talks with Iranian officials about issues of mutual interest. The first of these issues is the purchase of oil. Those related to gas pipelines are still being studied and planned. We intend to resolve these issues but as you know it takes time and study. However, we can say that the economic relations which began between our two countries last year have been good and we hope to be able to continue to improve them.

Industries Minister

LD171952 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] The Turkish energy and natural resources minister, along with some of his entourage, met and conferred with our country's industries minister this afternoon.

During this meeting, the Turkish minister said: We feel that the Islamic world has common interests. We should take the greatest advantage of these interests, a good example of which is our good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: The volume of our trade has reached its highest level ever. Our two countries can complement each other economically.

Referring to the energy shortage and the abundance of foodstuffs, (?phosphite) and alumina mines and industrial products in Turkey and to the rich zinc resources in Iran, the Turkish minister expressed hope for cooperation between the two countries in smelting Iranian concentrated zinc in Turkey and Turkish (?phosphite) and alumina in Iran. He also declared Turkey's intention to buy Iranian concentrated copper. Regarding the export of glass by Turkey to Iran and the facilities which Turkey has from the point of view of exporting glass, tiles, and energy-generating equipment, the Turkish minister asked for the establishment of commercial relations between the two countries.

During this meeting, Industries Minister Hashemi said: In my last visit to Turkey, I learned some interesting points, namely, that your people are hard-working and patriotic. This assures that relations between our two countries will be based on long-term interests. Therefore, we have no worries about small problems. Companies on both sides can solve their problems themselves.

Referring to Iran's potential water resources and the possibility of cooperation between the two countries in the utilization of hydroelectric industries and in the construction of a cement plant in Azarbayjan with Turkey's cooperation, he said: Relations between our two countries are very extensive and satisfactory. Of course, such a step has rarely been seen in relations between countries.

18 January Talks

LD182212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The Turkish energy and natural resources minister and his entourage this afternoon met Minister of Mines and Minerals Musaviyan. In this meeting, the exchange of minerals and metals and technical cooperation was discussed.

The Turkish economic-commercial delegation, led by the energy and natural resources minister also met this afternoon with the acting minister of commerce. In this meeting, the acting minister of commerce, emphasizing the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran's basic principles concerning foreign commerce are cooperation with Islamic and nonaligned countries, direct purchases from the producing countries, and elimination of international middlemen and brokers, said: Since the Islamic Revolution, our cooperation with Muslim and nonaligned countries has been regulated in such a way that we proceed on the basis of mutual interests with these countries. This is contrary to the wishes of the superpowers. He added: By forming an Islamic common market, we can confront international imperialism and safeguard the interests of the Islamic countries against the existing common markets in the world.

In this meeting, the Turkish energy and natural resources minister said: Turkey is trying to expand its economic and commercial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as much as possible. Turkey hopes that in exchange for providing the needs of the Islamic Republic, especially in foodstuffs and agricultural products such as sugar, lentils, barley, meat, and so on, it can satisfy its own needs for such things as oil and other goods that may be exported from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

To expand commercial relations with Iran, the Turkish minister made proposals concerning the construction of highways and the expansion and improvement of railway lines, airlines, and communication lines between the two countries, as well as increasing the working hours of the border customs posts. At the same time, it was decided that possibilities for the expansion of commercial and economic relations between the two countries be carefully and thoroughly considered in the annual meeting of the two countries' ministers of commerce which will be held in the near future in Turkey.

Minister of State Banki

LD182218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The Turkish energy and natural resources minister met the minister of state and head of the plan and budget organization, Banki, this afternoon. During the meeting, talks and an exchange of views took place with regard to economic exchanges, planning and extending economic and technical cooperation, and the exchange of experts between the two countries. The Turkish energy and natural resources minister, referring to his country's electricity need and noting Iran's vast oil reserves, suggested that the oil in Western Azarbayjan be utilized for the generation of power and the electricity placed at Turkey's disposal.

During the same meeting, the possibilities of cooperation between the countries in the field of metal smelting, including aluminum and tin also were studied.

AHVAZ OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT IMAM'S DECREE OPENS

GF181624 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The committee for implementing the 8-point decree of the imam began working on 18 January in Ahvaz and in Khuzestan Province. The committee informed the Central News Unit of Ahvaz that now the Khuzestan people can file their complaints together with documents at the committee office situated at Palestine Street opposite the Qom Bank in Ahvaz.